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THE QUOTA OF DOCTORS FOR THE ARMY.

There are about 150,000 physicians listed in medical directories. Deducting from these 50,000 who are not in practice, or are physically incompetent, leaves 100,000 doctors available. Of this number the Surgeon-General requires 20,000, or one-fifth of the active practitioners as officers in the Medical Reserve Corps of the Army. This means that one out of every five physicians in California is needed in the Army and *must go at once*. Every reader of this page is urged most seriously to see that the profession in his vicinity is represented at least in proportion.

The lowest commission offered a doctor is First Lieutenant, which draws in pay \$2000 a year; Captains receive \$2400 and Majors \$3000. The cost of equipment is about \$150 to \$175, according to the desires of the individual. The individual outlay when once in the service is principally expenditure for food, which averages about \$25 a month.

The need of doctors is not alone for the mobile army but also in concentration camps, evacuation hospitals, base hospitals and on transports. It is of decided advantage to volunteer your services and receive the benefit of the very necessary training accorded physicians in medical training camps. It is a safe assumption that for those who receive such training and show their aptitude for the service, advancement will be rapid.

Applications for commissions in the Medical Reserve Corps will be sent to you by your Local Examining Board or by the Editor of this paper. Apply for your commission *now*. Your country needs you.

DANGER FROM BOTULISM.

In the present national crisis one of the chief topics of interest to the average citizen has been the rapidity with which staple articles of diet have risen in price until they are almost beyond the reach of the small wage earner. In order to combat the "high cost of living" and to conserve such foods as can be shipped to our allies in Europe, there has been a widely advertised propaganda, urging that all who have access to the fresh material should provide for the coming winter by canning vegetables and fruits at home; and the leading newspapers have co-operated with the authorities by publishing detailed descriptions of how the canning process should be carried out.

It is probable that much larger quantities of fruits and vegetables are being canned at home this year than ever before, and that many persons will be depending upon home-canned foods who have formerly used only commercially-canned products. It is urgent, therefore, that the medical profession should be alert to the danger which may arise from poisoning from foods which have been improperly preserved.

One of the most important types of food poisoning in California in recent years is due to the toxin of the *Bacillus botulinus*, which, as has been shown by Dickson,^{1,2} may be produced in home-canned vegetables and fruits. The majority of human cases of botulism have followed the ingestion of home-canned beans and corn, but cases have been described in which apricots and asparagus were at fault, and Dickson's experimental work has shown

¹ Dickson, E. C. Botulism, An Experimental Study. Jour. Amer. Med. Assoc., 1915. LXV, 492.

² Dickson, E. C. Botulism, Its Occurrence in California. Cal. State Jour. of Med., 1916. XIV, 143.